implemented. Progress of these activities during the period 1992—98 is as under:

(in million hectares)

OFD Activities	Progress during 1992—98
Warabandi	2.95
Field channels	2.08
	0.24
Field drains	0.12

Decrease in the level of ground water

207. SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ground water level is decreasing in Delhi steadily;

(b) if so, the present state of ground water level; and

(c) the steps taken to check the decrease in the ground water level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Long term observations made by the Central Ground Water Board have shown that ground water levels have declined by 4 to 10 metres in Mehrauli Block, 4 to 8 meters in City Block, 4 to 7 metres in Najafgarh Block and 4 to 5 metres in Kanjhawala and Alipur Block of Delhi during last 10 years.

(c) Th* steps taken by the Union Government to check the declining trend in ground water include:—

(1) Constitution of Central Ground Water Authority under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for regulation and control of ground water management and development. The Authority has been holding periodical meetings to, *inter-alia,* advise the State Governments to take suitable measures to check over-exploitation in view of decline in the level of ground water and

to assist the Authority in discharging its functions. It has initiated the process of registration of ground water extraction structures in Delhi to make an assessment of withdrawals with reference to availability of ground water. It has also taken various measures for creating mass awareness on the subject.

(2) The Central Ground Water Board has prepared a report titled "Development and Augmentation of Ground Water Resources in National Capital Territory of Delhi". A copy of this report has been made available to the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi for taking follow-up action.

(3) Implementation of a Central Sector Scheme on studies on recharge of ground water in some 'Over-exploited' areas of various States including NCT of Delhi in the country. In Delhi, the recharge studies were carried out in Jawaharlal Nehru University and I.I.T., Delhi.

(4) Circulation of a Manual on artificial recharge of ground water to the States/Union Territories including NCT of Delhi to enable them to formulate area specific recharge schemes to check the declining trend in ground water level.

(5) Circulation of a Model Bill to all the States/Union Territories including NCT of Delhi to enable them to enact suitable legislation for regulation and control of ground water development.

(6) Formulation of a Centrally Sponsored Scheme to assist the States in artificial recharge of ground water. This scheme is at consultation stage.

National Action Plan for Brahmaputra River

208. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any National Action Plan for scientific water management survey of Brahmaputra river with the help of international agency;

(b) if so, the present status of the National Action Plan;